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THE FRONTLINE

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December 11, 2008



Shed holiday
pounds with big
competition
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3rd ID Band holds concert

**Public is invited
to holiday celebration**

Kevin Larson
Chief, Public Information

The 3rd Infantry Division Band will salute the Soldiers and Families for their service and thank the local communities for their

support with a holiday concert 7 p.m., Dec. 18, at Stewart's Main Post Chapel.

The concert will feature traditional and contemporary holiday music, and a sing-along. The band will begin the evening with its full concert, then perform its brass band, woodwind trio, brass quintet, and more.

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Wreath laying honors fallen

Special to the Frontline

Fort Stewart will hold its second annual Christmas Wreath Laying ceremony at noon, Saturday at Warrior's Walk here.

In coordination with Wreaths for Warrior's Walk, Fort Stewart's goal is to place a Christmas wreath at the base of each tree for every fallen Soldier memorialized at Warrior's Walk.

The wreaths, which were purchased by private individuals, are to honor our Soldiers who have

made the ultimate sacrifice.

Warrior's Walk became a reality in 2003 during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Since then, the 3rd Infantry Division has been deployed to Iraq three times.

During each deployment, when a Soldier is killed in action, a tree is planted in his or her honor along Warrior's Walk.

A granite marker, inscribed with the Soldiers' name, rank, unit and date of death, sits at the base of each tree.

Reenlistment bonuses drop

Pfc. Crystal Bradley
2nd BCT Public Affairs

Reenlistment bonuses for Soldiers are scheduled to decrease after Dec. 10. Soldiers Army-wide, including 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers, who are interested in signing up for more years in the Army may be affected by this predicted decrease. The decrease is expected to affect specific military occupation specialties.

Master Sergeant Brenda Windham, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade Combat Team is a career counselor, whose job includes coun-

seling Soldiers on their options in the Army such as changing their MOS, considering a new duty assignment, and also re-enlisting, said that Soldiers need to be aware of the coming decrease in re-enlistment bonuses.

Due to the predicted decrease, Windham said that now is the perfect time for Soldiers to act on re-enlisting.

"Every four to six months, the Army tracks the critical skills that are most needed in the Army. They look at which MOS's are suffering from a shortage of funds, which are not, and balance funds throughout the Army," Windham said.

See RE-UP _____ Page 6A

4th BCT commander sums up deployment

Sgt. 1st Class Tami Hillis
4th BCT Public Affairs

Being responsible for 3,800 Soldiers has been "an absolute pleasure, joy and honor," said Col. Thomas James, 4th Brigade Combat Team commander.

"It warms my heart to see them out there doing what they're doing and the sacrifices they're making for our country, the people of Iraq and the international community."

Throughout the course of the deployment, the Vanguard Brigade has continuously adapted to its changing operating environment, an area of approximately 40,000 square kilometers, which is about the size of Switzerland. And the brigade has been able to do this due to the agility and versatility of its Soldiers.

"If you were to draw a line that says, 'Themes of rotations,' I think 4/25 Infantry fought really hard, a very lethal fight against al-Qaeda in the north, and the militia in the south," James said.

"They were able to shape the fight to a point where we could

take it ... it's like a forest fire; they put the forest fire out minus some small flash fires. We came in and were able to execute operations in the first couple of months, putting those flash fires out and then setting the conditions to stabilize things and to continue building momentum," said James. "I think that's probably the biggest accomplishment that I have seen. What I've seen in the Soldiers in executing that is their ability to build relationships and adapt their skills to fit the environment to allow stability to take place."

By creating an environment of security, it allowed the brigade to focus on other things, such as professionalizing the Iraqi Security Forces, governance, economics and essential services.

"We looked at the decisive point as being reducing the threat level while simultaneously building the capability of the Iraqi Security Forces to a level higher, so we could hand it off; and we have been able to do that," said James.

The brigade was able to build off the momentum that was created by their predecessor.

See SUMMARY _____ Page 6A



Randy Murray

Installation supports local holiday parades - Fort Stewart Color Guard provided by 87th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, included Sgt. Kyle Baker, Spc. Terry Bradford, Pfc. Mauricio Ayala, Spc. William Drake, Spc. Frances Carroll, Spc. Yunde Li, Pvt. Christopher Gump, Spc. David Harp and Sgt. Anthony Clark, who participated in the Long County Christmas Parade, Dec. 6 in downtown Ludowici, Ga. See story on Pages 10A-11A.

'Tis the season' to keep your battle buddy safe

Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Andrews
3rd ID command sgt. maj.

The holiday season is here, and most of you are planning your vacation trip or thinking about how to enjoy the half-day schedule. However, have you asked your battle buddy what he or she is going to do with the extra personal time?

Everyone should now be carrying their battle buddy card at all times while in uniform. The purpose of this addition to your wallet is so that if you find yourself in a quagmire, you have a friend and a cohort that has your back -- someone who can give you sound and sensible advice. Battle-buddy relationships are give and take. Don't be the one who always needs to vent or to lean on a reliable shoulder but never has time to reciprocate.

Think back to basic combat training and the battle buddy assigned to you by your drill sergeant. You can probably

remember his or her name and other personal information that was shared during your indoctrination into the Army. Those weeks or months of mental and physical strain were more bearable because you weren't going through it alone.

The first two weeks of basic combat training is the foundation for all other Army training, education and experiences to be built upon. Before being sent to your first duty station, you were taught why it's important to salute during reveille, retreat, taps and the national anthem; and that you stand at attention when the Army song is played; and give the greeting of the day when passing senior officers and noncommissioned officers. It's also when you were first introduced to the battle-buddy concept.



Now, regardless of if you have one or 20 years in the military, the need to have a battle buddy is essential. A prerequisite doesn't need to be best friend. This person doesn't have to think like you, look like you or like the same things as you. Loyalty and trustworthiness are the most important attributes for

a battle buddy. Looming trouble will always exist if we surround ourselves with people who are only going to tell us what we want to hear and never push us in the right direction, even if it means taking longer to get there.

The 3rd Infantry Division is a rock-hard disciplined outfit, ready for any mission. Unfortunately, I'm not pleased to say that there has been an increase of misconduct and a decrease in discipline among our Soldiers. Battle buddies, let's

correct this problem and help first-line supervisors by being the designated driver or saying that it's not a good idea to drive an unregistered vehicle.

Let's also be understanding and respective to all. Immediate joy doesn't come to everyone when the tune of Jingle Bells is in the air or there is a sighting of Ol' Kris Kringle. Don't make assumptions about your battle buddy based on your own beliefs. Do, however, ask how they're doing and what their plans are this season.

Before I close, I would like to welcome home our comrades from 4th Brigade Combat Team. The Vanguard Brigade will continue to arrive over the next week and enjoy being home for the holidays. My battle buddy, Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo, and I caution you not to over indulge, but to moderately enjoy your favorite foods, entertainment and hobbies. This season is joyous, and we want everyone to stay safe and look out for your buddy.

2nd BCT Soldier receives Purple Heart

Sgt. Jason Stadel
2nd BCT Public Affairs

More than a year after his uparmored humvee was struck with a powerful roadside bomb; Spc. Danny Segui, 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds he received during the attack. The Purple Heart was presented by Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo, 3rd Infantry Division commanding general, and Georgia Congressman John Barrow, Dec. 5 at Marne Garden.

Barrow commended Segui on his sacrifice to his country and his choice to serve the nation.

"Unlike a doctor, lawyer, or preacher, folks who take up a call to arms are willing to lay down their lives," said Barrow.

On Nov. 1, 2007, Segui, an infantryman, was the gunner of a humvee in a neighborhood in downtown Baghdad during a mounted combat patrol. During the patrol, an explosively-formed projectile was detonated near the front of the truck, shooting an array of molten copper at the truck. Segui received a puncture wound to his upper left arm and abrasions to his head. He was taken to a combat support hospital in the Green Zone for treatment. He returned to his unit soon afterward.

Barrow said the presentation of the Purple Heart not only recognizes Segui but also his

brothers-in-arms.

"I think folks who earn this award represent not just themselves but their buddies' wounds in action," he said.

Although it took a year to be presented the award, Segui said he was happy to be recognized and was happy that his Family could be in attendance at the presentation. He is married with three children.

"It's very special that they were here," Segui said.

Segui's wife, Cindy, said when she heard last year that her husband had been wounded, she instantly started to cry, but a year later she said she was proud to see her husband in formation receiving his award.

"I cannot explain it; it feels good knowing that people appreciate his service," she said.

Segui, who was born in New York but lived most of his life in Puerto Rico, said being wounded in combat didn't alter his mind set about the Army. He recently re-enlisted and plans on making the Army a career.

"I'm always ready to fight for my country," he said. "I want to continue to fight for my country."

Even though he has been wounded in combat, Segui said his Family supported his decision to stay in the Army.

His wife made it clear about earning another Purple Heart, though.

"She told me that I didn't need another one; one is enough," he said.



Sgt. Jason Stadel

Major General Tony Cucolo, 3rd Infantry Division commanding general, pins the Purple Heart on Spc. Danny Segui, 1/64 Armor, 2nd BCT, as Georgia Congressman John Barrow looks on, Dec. 5 at Marne Garden.

Moment in History: CAB Soldiers remember Pearl Harbor

Spc. Monica K. Smith
CAB Public Affairs

Seven Soldiers stood outside the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum with their weapons ready.

At the order of their squad leader, they fired three rounds, the sound of which echoed against the building's white walls. Silence followed, broken only by the sound of a bell ringing twice.

It was the 67th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, a date which President Franklin D. Roosevelt said, "will live in infamy."

"It's important to remember the Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen

who lost their lives that day," said Staff Sgt. Jordan Addison, member of Headquarters Support Company, 603rd Aviation Support Battalion, and who led the CAB firing squad that day.

"It's an honor to serve here today." The ceremony included testimony from James M. Sellers, who was a 21-year old Marine that manned an anti-aircraft weapon the day after the attack, and Judy Weiher, who was 5 years old on the day of the attack, giving the perspective from that of a child.

Navy Cmdr. Steve Petroff, commander of the USS Boone spoke as the guest speaker in the Lewis E. Lyle Rotunda of the museum.



Photos by Spc. Monica K. Smith

Navy Cmdr. Steve Petroff, commander of the USS Boone speaks during a Pearl Harbor memorial ceremony, Dec. 7 in the Lewis E. Lyle Rotunda of the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum.



Members of 603rd ASB fire their first round of a 21-gun salute at the Pearl Harbor memorial ceremony, Dec. 7 at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum.



Spc. Amanda McBride

Families, friends and colleagues wave signs and cheer during a welcome home ceremony for 4th BCT Soldiers, Dec. 4.

Vanguard Soldiers continue returning



Spc. Amanda McBride

First Lieutenant Zach Piece, assigned to 6/8 Cav., 4th BCT, hugs his girlfriend, Catherine Vanpelt, during a welcome home ceremony, Dec. 5.



Spc. Amanda McBride

Soldiers from 4th BCT sing the "Dog Face Soldier" song before their eager Family Members rushed the field, Dec. 6.

Spc. Amanda McBride
4th BCT Public Affairs

More than 700 Soldiers from the 4th Brigade Combat Team were welcomed home at Fort Stewart's Cottrell Field in three separate ceremonies, Dec. 4 - 8, following their deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The Vanguard Soldiers arrived on three separate days but were greeted warmly by hundreds of waiting Families, friends and colleagues, as well as by music from the 3rd Infantry Division Band.

Throughout the four ceremonies, group of returnees was greeted by 3rd ID Commander Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo and Assistant Division Commander for Maneuver, Brig. Gen. Patrick Donohue, who congratulated them on their success and welcomed them back home.

"Vanguard Soldiers, on behalf Maj. Gen. Cucolo and (Command)Sgt. Maj. (Jesse) Andrews (3rd ID command sergeant major), I am here to officially welcome you home to Fort Stewart," Donohue said. "Also I want to tell you how proud we are of what you've done in the 14-plus months in Iraq. In fact this division and the entire nation is proud of what you accomplished during the time you served your country."

The crowd of welcome-homers began forming up together on the field

hours before the arrival of the Soldiers to prepare themselves for their loved ones' return.

Members from a local Vietnam Veterans of America passed out miniature American flags and volunteers from the USO supplied hot coco and coffee to the hundreds of welcome-homers prior to the arrival of the Soldiers.

Ashley Curry, wife of Capt. Greg Curry, assigned to the 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 4th BCT, said that the return of her husband is even more special because its before the holidays.

"We are very happy that he will be here for Christmas," Curry said. "This year, all we plan to do is spend the holiday together and enjoy ourselves."

Soldiers had barely finished singing the last verse of the "Dog Face Soldier" song before their eager Family Members rushed the field after a long separation.

The Soldiers returned after providing security to the Iraqi local population and helped train members of the Iraqi Security Forces.

The brigade began its deployment Aug. 2007 and was the last brigade of the 3rd ID to deploy.

The remaining 4th BCT Soldiers are set to return throughout the month of December.



Pat Young

Below: Specialist Michael Parker, Co. A, 4th Battalion, 64th Armor, greets his two year old daughter, Alexa, after returning from Iraq, Dec. 8 at Cottrell Field.

Installation DUI campaign aims for safety

Spc. Dustin Gautney
2nd BCT Public Affairs

The holidays bring Family and fun together; however, the holiday season brings troubles as well. The time between Thanksgiving and New Year's marks the highest point of the year for driving under the influence and alcohol-related crashes.

To counter-act the increasing number of alcohol-related incidents Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield have begun an aggressive campaign to promote driving under the influence awareness and influence Soldiers, Family, and Department of Defense Civilians to alter their behavior and facilitate safe and sensible celebration habits.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving, estimates that each year more than 1,000 people die during Thanksgiving and New Year's in drunk driving crashes due to increased consumption of alcohol at parties and special events.

However, drinking and driving crashes and alcohol-related incidents are one of the most easily prevented catastrophes.

"There are many methods to avoid a DUI and alcohol-related incidents," said Daryl Lusk, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, safety officer.

The Spartan brigade has had more than 30 DUI and alcohol-related incidents since returning from deployment in July. The DUI campaign hopes to reduce these numbers 50 percent by next quarter, said Lusk.

"Best way to prevent a DUI is the buddy system, basically having a designated driver," said Lusk. "Some units on base will have a staff duty taxi money pool, which will pay the taxi service to bring a Soldier safely back to base."

Soldiers ultimately can use their chain-of-command; many non-commissioned officers and platoon leaders

will pick up an intoxicated Soldier, regardless of what time of night to bring a Soldier home safely, said Lusk.

While drinking and driving incidents are easily avoidable with prior safe planning, Soldiers need to be aware of not just the catastrophic consequences of drinking and driving but the legal and possible career ending consequences as well.

DUI on the installation:

- Soldier will receive a General Officer Memorandum of Reprimand from the commanding general in accordance with Army Regulation 190-5.
- Because Federal Magistrates will not adjudicate offenses committed by military members in Federal Court, Soldiers may be given Article 15 for Article 111, uniform code of military justice.
- Soldier will have on-post driving privileges suspended/revoked for 1 year.

DUI off the installation

- Soldier will receive a General Officer Memorandum of Reprimand from CG IAW AR 190-5.
- Soldier will have case adjudicated by civilian court.
- Soldiers in the grade of private through staff sergeant may also be subject to administrative reduction board for civilian conviction

- Soldier will have on-post driving privileges suspended/revoked for 1 year.

DUIs ruin more than careers

Spc. Dustin Gautney
2nd BCT Public Affairs

"A driving under the influence conviction can definitely ruin a Soldier's career," said Capt. James Harvey, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd BCT commander.

Harvey said there was a high ranking NCO in Germany -- a highly regarded 19-year veteran - that had his retirement completely planned out, but then he was convicted of a DUI.

"Now he had to ask himself how he and his Family are going to survive after he was later reduced to the rank of E-5," said Harvey.

This is what makes a DUI conviction so damaging to a Soldier's career, they cannot only be reduced in rank, but the record of that DUI stays with the Soldiers for their entire career. Also, for NCOs, it can demean the loss in the level of respect

from their subordinate Soldiers they are supposed to follow, he added.

Harvey said the prestige and dignity that comes with being a Soldier is a factor if a Soldier is convicted of DUI.

A civilian who receives a DUI will not receive the stigma of a drinking and driving conviction the same way it affects a Soldier. Most likely, at most, a civilian's employer might be notified of the conviction, yet it will not affect their employment, or for the most part how other employees interact with someone convicted of a DUI, said Harvey.

This is the burden Soldiers have to bare when they put on that uniform, and it should influence Soldiers to take safe measures to prevent such incidents as a DUI, Harvey said.

"The chain-of-command truly is the best way to ensure the safe return of Soldiers and help protect their careers," he said.



Randy Murray

Save-a-Life program comes to Stewart

Sergeant First Class James Guest, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, attempts to negotiate a driving simulator which simulates the difficulty of drunk driving as instructor/road crewman for the National Save a Life Tour, Matt Kwant, points out his driving errors, Dec. 9 at Fort Stewart's Jordan Gym. The Save-a-Life Tour is a high impact alcohol awareness program that uses video presentations, static displays and hands-on demonstrations to get its message to Soldiers. The program is part of a national effort that visits locations throughout the military.

Marne Voices Speak Out

What do you want for Christmas?

"A whole valley of nuts like pistachios, honey roasted nuts, ham, sleeping bag, USB Internet connection."

Andrew Kilgore, 11
Brittin Elementary School



"Shoes, a bratz doll, and flowers for my mother."

Ashley Erickson, 8
Kessler Elementary School



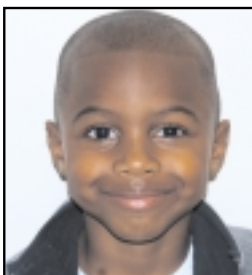
"A Gabriella doll, Wii System, bike, earrings, and makeup."

Kristal Nunez, 5
Diamond Elementary School



"Byakygan guns, Nintendo game, motor bike, and a computer game."

Patrick Williams, 10
Diamond Elementary School



"A Playstation, robot, Byakygan, and Dragon Ball Z."

Rickey Flagg, 5
Kessler Elementary School



"Dart guns and Years of War II game."

Storm Sammons, 8
Brittin Elementary School

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Veterans' Corner

-Still serving



Dublin trip honors veterans for service

Gail Aldridge
USAG Community Relations Specialist

Veterans from the Liberty County Veterans Council purchase, prepare and donate fruit baskets annually for more than 300 veteran patients at the Carl Vinson Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Dublin, Ga.

This year more than 75 Soldiers along with the 3rd Infantry Division Color Guard and the 3rd ID Band traveled with the Veterans Council to help present the fruit baskets, pay honor to their service, visit with them, and present a holiday concert.

The 3rd ID Commander, Major Gen. Tony Cucolo and Marne Division Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Andrews also visited the patients at the center and enjoyed the

captivating musical tribute to the Christmas season. Cucolo greeted the group of veteran patients gathered in the spacious auditorium and thanked them for their service to our country.

"I want to offer three brief messages today," he began. "First, the greatest tragedy is to be forgotten. You deserve to be remembered. We honor you today. We are pleased to be with you," he said. "Second, you will not be forgotten because we know you paved the way, and we are your legacy."

And the third message was that he and the 3rd ID wished the veterans happy holidays. He then turned the program over to Chief Warrant Officer Stephen L. Campbell, 3rd ID band director.

The concert began with a trendy instrumental version of "Grandma Got Run Over by A Reindeer," after which the

concert band divided into small ensembles. First was a three piece woodwind group followed by an eight-Soldier Jazz unit playing special Christmas selections. Next was a five-piece brass assembly and the last special group was comprised of eight talented Soldiers rendering "Rocky's Universal Christmas Rockers."

Specialist Sherry Robinson sang, "O Holy Night," which resulted in a standing ovation and thunderous applause by the audience, to include several of the wheelchair patients. Sgt. Jason McElveen sang, "The Christmas Song," in conclusion.

All feedback from those in attendance was superb.

"This year's concert was exceptional," said Anneliese Knapp, president of Hinesville's American Legion Post 168 Ladies Auxiliary. Paul Spence, Chairman of the Liberty County Veterans Council commented on his feelings seeing the veterans receiving treatment.

"I just love seeing the smiles on the faces of the veteran patients," Spence said. "A military band does so much to cheer these veterans during the Christmas season. This visit and the special honor of giving a veteran a fruit basket puts me in the Christmas spirit. I love shaking their hands and listening to

their stories of service."

Lieutenant Colonel Bryan Walker, 3rd ID chaplain, reflected that he liked seeing the interaction between our younger Soldiers and these older experienced combat Soldiers from the Greatest Generation.

"Their stories of military service are inspiring and lend an air of patriotism, moral integrity and faith that is very evident but unspoken," Walker said. "Faith is still an important factor with older veterans."

Henry O'Neal, a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Liberty Chapter 789 said every effort that Fort Stewart makes to support this annual event is so appreciated by the resident veteran patients. And noted they love meeting Soldiers in uniform, talking and interacting with them.

The VA Medical Center staff expressed their gratitude on behalf of the veterans.

"Thank you' does not convey what our hearts feel for your support. We appreciate your efforts to enhance the Christmas season for our veteran patients. We also appreciate the service and dedication to duty of your Soldiers at Fort Stewart. We appreciate what you do to ensure our freedom," said Janine Cameron, public affairs officer for Carl Vinson VA Medical Center.



Gail Aldridge

Members of the 3rd ID band perform for disabled veterans at the VA Medical Center in Dublin Ga., Dec. 3

Right: Disabled veterans listen to a variety of songs performed by the 3rd ID band. The veterans also received fruit baskets prepared by the Liberty County Veterans Council.





Sgt. Tanya Polk

The 3rd ID Band partakes in the Hinesville Christmas Parade, Dec. 5. The band will perform a holiday concert, Dec. 18 at the Main Post Chapel.

CONCERT

from Page 1A

Everyone inside and outside the gates is invited to the concert. The concert is about celebration and remembrance, said 3rd ID Band chief of plans Sgt. 1st Class Frank Barlow.

"This is a holiday celebration for the

Soldiers that just returned and their Families, and to remember those Soldiers still deployed," he said.

The concert is also a tribute to the installation's neighbors for their enduring support of the 3rd ID and Stewart-

Hunter, and a chance for fellowship in the spirit of the season. The concert also showcases the versatility of the Army, Barlow said.

The holiday concert continues the band's tradition of playing for Soldiers

no matter the circumstance.

The most recent concert was for the disabled veterans at the Carl Vinson Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Dublin, Ga. (See related story on the Veterans' Corner, Page 5A.)

RE-UP

from Page 1A

"This affects the amounts of re-enlistment bonuses," said Windham. and noted re-enlisting right now is not only a good idea due to the bonuses, but also because it would mean having a secure job.

"The economy right now outside of the Army is not doing so great. Re-enlisting would provide a source of security for Soldiers," she said. "It also means having a guaranteed job, steady income, as well as great medical benefits."

Staff Sergeant Christopher Gardner, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd BCT career counselor, said there has been a recent increase in re-enlistments.

"I have had a lot of Soldiers come lately to discuss re-enlisting. With the decrease in the bonuses, now is definitely a good time," he said.

Gardner added that Soldiers realize that right now there is a bleak outlook on the economy, and the Army is a way to assure stability for themselves and their Families. Corporal George Mahieu, Company B, 1/30th, 2nd BCT, re-enlisted Dec. 2. He received a bonus.

"I re-enlisted because I want to make a career out of the Army. I've been in for six years so far. I've enjoyed it, and I'm just going to keep pushing through," he said. Mahieu said he encourages other Soldiers to take advantage of the opportunities the Army can provide. "I think Soldiers should take advantage of the bonuses before they start to go down."



Courtesy photo

Corporal George Mahieu, Co. B, 1/30 Inf., 3rd ID, recites the re-enlistment oath as administered by 1st Lt. Gerald Inoa, Co. B, 1/30th executive officer, Dec. 2 at the unit's headquarters.

SUMMARY

from Page 1A

"The 4/25th was fighting real hard and we took over and continued to build on that momentum," said James. "We were able to start these 'quick-fire' CERP projects, where we were giving the people the resources and jobs they needed real quick ... then we had to transition in the middle of our rotations from projects to programs, trying to make it more of a long-term, sustainable program."

The brigade was able to do this due to having an embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team attached to the headquarters.

"Howard Vanvranken and his group of specialists really know how to build economics and governance [programs] that we're not necessarily that experienced with," said James. "We kept resourcing them; whenever he had a hole he needed filled, I would fill it with one of our Vanguard Warriors. The work they've been able to do has just been amazing."

Working the LOEs (Lines of Effort)

As ePRT worked diligently with building economics and governance, the Soldiers of the Vanguard Team formed relationships with key Iraqi leaders on both the civilian and military side.

"The Soldiers were able to execute operations in a very complex environment and do it with precision and build these relationships like no other force can do; I think this was a very important factor that has allowed us to be successful."

The Soldiers, from the private on the ground to the brigade commander, invested a lot of time and effort in professionalizing the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police.

"The Iraqis need confidence," said James. "They don't realize how good they are compared to the threat ... they're not us, but they just formed this army five years ago. They're really starting to learn some things and are taking charge, and we just need to allow them to do so and just be in more of a support role."

Compared to previous rotations, James said his Iraqi counterparts have really impressed him.

"The Iraqi Army and police are so much better and that was extremely helpful for us in accomplishing our mission," said James. "There was a point when they were handling a lot of the fight, down in the south with the militia while we were focusing on north Babil. Then the Sons of Iraq program was created because the Sunnis were tired of the violence and wanted to stand up and protect their neighborhoods, protect their Families. They came to the table and said, 'We want to

help. We don't want violence anymore. We want to reconcile.' That was obviously a big factor in the success of north Babil."

Way ahead

So as the Vanguard Brigade looks to end a chapter in their history, the areas where the next unit will have to focus will likely include political and sectarian prejudices and lack of essential services.

"One of the things that has been difficult is the sectarian views of the politicians as it applies to our area," said James. "We're not experiencing sectarian violence like several years ago; the violence associated with Shia on Sunni and vice versa. It's just been certain prejudices associated with Shia when it comes to the police force and getting Sunnis integrated into the Iraqi Security Forces. Also, getting the Sons of Iraq, which are predominately Sunni, packets through the reconciliation cell in Baghdad to get into the Iraqi Army or police has been extremely challenging. I think we've processed more than 4,000 packets up there but none of them have made it into the ISF I think for the most part on the streets it seems like Sunnis and Shias have reconciled and are working together but then you get the political parties involved and at the government level it is more difficult. So they have to get past that and look through the 'Iraqi lens' and not the 'Sunni/Shia lens.'"

Also, the level of essential services in Babil Province along with the majority of the rest of the country is still lagging behind.

"The Iraqi government has large amounts of resources," said James. "But how do you get those resources to the people who need it? How do we improve the government structure to where the people's voices are heard? It's unfortunate that they know what they want at the ground level and they have money at the top ... but working it down is a challenge."

Our Soldiers

"The brigade staff is the best staff organization that I've ever seen in 24 years," said James. "They have multi-planned, simultaneously, while in contact and produced products that allowed subordinate units to execute."

"It's been an absolute pleasure to work with (Command) Sergeant Major (Louis)Torres, who is the senior, most experience Soldier in the Vanguard

Brigade; he loves Soldiers and it's infectious.

"The subordinate commanders have been incredible with what they've been able to do in building relationships with those in their areas and being able to take it to a different level. They've also had to deal with the pain associated with command when you lose a Soldier or a Soldier is injured. As soon as one goes down you have to be dedicated to those who are alive and not let them die in vain."

"It's hard to describe in words the feeling you get when you're commanding an organization in combat where you have Soldiers who pay the ultimate sacrifice, you've got Soldiers who have life-altering injuries, and you have Families who have sacrificed so much."

Going home

"The relationships I've made with the Iraqis will last a life-time," James said. "So I'll go home and it won't be that I will never think of (Brig. Gen.) Abdul Amir again or what's going on with Babil Province. We'll forever be tracking it to see what's going on to make sure that things are still going well. We've paid for it in blood and sacrifice, so we'll keep an eye on that in the future."

The brigade has been successful in their mission and the Vanguard Soldiers will be going home to a Hero's Welcome, which is what they deserve, said James.

"We've got the finest Soldiers in the world, and we've got the greatest families who have been supporting us and behind us as well," James said. "Separation is hard and anybody who says it is okay is wrong; everybody misses their loved ones, that's just part of it. The support that they have had for us has been enormous and it has allowed us to get things done over here."

James said he's happy to go home because he misses his Family, and he knows his Soldiers miss their Families and the unit is being moved out of harm's way.

"But the thing that I don't like about it is it's near the end and this is something that I will never, ever forget," said James, who is scheduled to change command in March 2009 and is headed to Fort Knox, Ky., to be the chief of staff at the Armor Center. "It will be an experience that will be forever locked in my heart and my memories. It's not a job; it's a way of life. Our profession is so much different than others. The sacrifices we make are so much greater; our colleagues or associates in our particular business become brothers and sisters in arms."

Navy JROTC visits Aviation brigade

Spc. Monica K. Smith
CAB Public Affairs

Soldiers within the Combat Aviation Brigade had the opportunity to talk about their jobs and their aircraft, Dec. 3 when members of the Navy JROTC from Jenkins High School visited the CAB flight line at Hunter Army Airfield.

“These tours are important to show (the kids) what we do and try to give them a better understanding of what we do and possibly convince them to join the Army,” said Sgt. Shawn Kirby, crew chief for Company A, 4th Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment. “It’s also a chance for us to show of a little bit of what we know about what it takes to do this job.”

The tour began with a brief history of Hunter Army Airfield at the garrison conference room. Then, the students headed to the flight line where they broke into five groups to see each of the brigade’s five aircraft: Apache, Chinook, Black Hawk, MEDE-

VAC, and Kiowa Warrior.

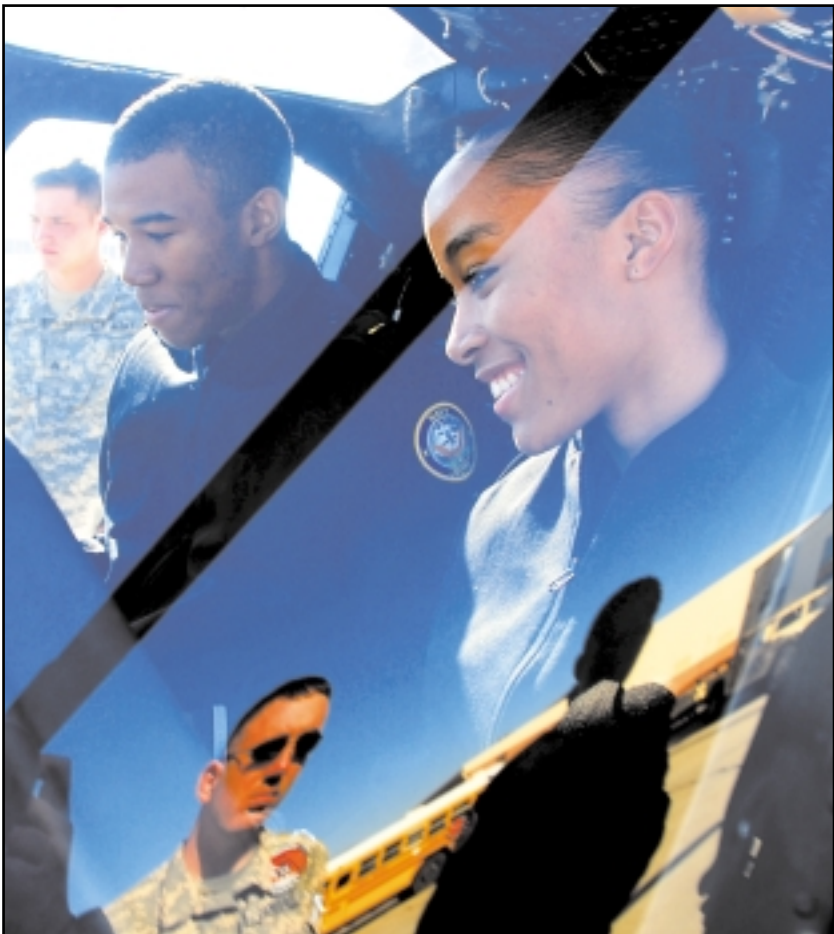
Many of the students didn’t know the Army had helicopters and were surprised to learn helicopter jobs exceeded past that of a pilot.

“It was great learning new things about things you didn’t know could happen in the military,” said Kadeem Ferris, 9th grader at Jenkins High School. “It was good to learn about the different helicopters and seeing everyone enjoying what they’re doing.”

The crew chiefs and pilots talked about their aircraft and then allowed the students to climb in, sit in the cock pit and push buttons while asking questions.

“They all asked good questions,” said Kirby. “Once we tell them what we do, they all said they wanted to do this. Who wants to be an infantry guy when you can shoot a gun out of the back of a Black Hawk?”

“I want to be a helicopter pilot,” said Ferris after the tour. “I want to fly [the Kiowa Warriors]. They look boyish – like what a boy would play with.”



Spc. Monica K. Smith
Right: Angel Turner (right) and Nick Bogus, members of the Navy JROTC at Jenkins High School, sit in a Kiowa Warrior, Dec. 3, during a flight line tour at Hunter Army Airfield.

Corkan Recreation Teen Center to grand open

Special to the Frontline

A grand opening for the recently completed Corkan Recreation Teen Center, building 438 will be held at 4:30 p.m. Dec. 16.

Details of the opening are being planned but will

include food, entertainment, and door prizes.

The center will focus its programming and activities on teens between the ages of 13 and 17. Those served must be children of military Families.

One area of the center will feature movies and music. The center also houses a café featuring cap-

puccino, smoothies and snacks. The game room of the center will feature free X-box, Wii, air hockey and basketball.

The facilities, although specializing in teens, will be open for private rentals outside teen operating hours. For more information, call 767-6708.

Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Briefs

Enter unit holiday decorating contest

Are your decorations up? Do not worry, you still have time to compete among brigades and battalions, directorates, and residents of post-housing for bragging rights. And Yes! Prizes top. The contest will run through Dec. 19 at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield. All levels of winners will be announced at 6 p.m., Dec. 19 at the Holiday Hayride Festivities.

Brigade and battalions’ decorations will be judged on Dec. 16 and 17. Prizes: First place - \$1, 000; second place - \$500; and third place - \$250. All prizes will be put in unit funds. Directorate decorations will be judged on Dec. 16 and 17, as well, separate from brigade and battalion category. Prizes for directorates will be awarded for first place only. Directorate prize will be a trophy.

Family housing decorations will be judged by Balfour Beatty Corporation, Dec. 15 at Stewart and Dec. 17 at Hunter. Prizes of \$50 each will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place at Stewart-Hunter. For additional information, please call 767-4316, Morale, Welfare and Recreation Recreation Delivery System Team.

Sergeant Audie Murphy Club meets

Are you a Sergeant Audie Muphy Club member? Do you know a SAMC member? For future meeting times, upcoming events or any other questions you may have, please contact Sgt. 1st Class Sonya Helring at 767-5559 or Master Sgt. Terence Clay at 767-0536.

Special Forces briefings held

Briefings are held noon, 2 and 5 p.m., every Wednesday at the Special Forces Recruiting Office, building 160, Garry Owen St. or at Hunter Army Airfield every Tuesday, noon and 1 p.m. at the Hunter Education Center, room 25. Physical training tests are given 7 a.m. every Friday at Donovan Parade Field. The uniform is the Army Combat Uniform and running shoes. For more information, call 767-1400.

Enjoy holiday hayrides

Holiday festival hayrides will be held at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield, 6-9 p.m., Dec. 19. The cost is \$5 per Family. The ride at Fort Stewart starts at Corkan Family Recreation Area. The event features Santa, caroling, a hayride, seasons lights, hot chocolate, cookies, and more. Cost \$5 per Family. All Corkan facilities operating at discount prices to extend holiday spirit. For more information, call 767-6708.

The Hunter ride starts at Hunter Credit Union parking lot (across from Post Exchange) and features caroling, hayride, seasons lights, outdoor movies, marshmallow roast, hot chocolate, popcorn, warm fire, and more. For more information, call 315-9554/5163.

Stewart

Commissary holiday hours announced

The Fort Stewart commissary announced its holiday hours. The commissary will resume normal hours in January 2009.

Dec. 22	10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Dec. 24	7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Dec. 25	Closed
Dec. 26	10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Jan. 1	Closed

ARC offers Babysitter Training

A must-have class for any young adult intending to watch younger children the American Red Cross offers Baby Sitting Training, Saturday and Dec. 20 at the Family Readiness Center Classroom, building 87. Morning classes are 9 a.m. to noon and the afternoon

classes are 1-4 p.m. Participants will learn the fundamentals of safe child supervision, including the basics of first aid, how to recognize dangerous situations and age specific types of play behavior.

Recommended ages for the class are youth, 11-15 years-old. You must pre-register; your registration fee includes all your materials. The fee is \$440, payable to American Red Cross, Savannah Chapter. Please contact the Savannah Red Cross to register at 651-5300 or online at www.savannahredcross.org. For additional course information, call the Fort Stewart Red Cross Office at 767-2197.


Learn about available scholarships

Army Emergency Relief Scholarships for academic year 2009/2010 are available online at www.aerhq.org. The deadline for registering is March 1, 2009. Dependent Children Scholarship Program and Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship Program is also available. Applicants must be dependent children of active, retired, or deceased Soldiers. Applicant must be enrolled in DEERS, and must be full-time or planning to be a full-time undergraduate student at a college/university, community college, or vocational school.

Visit www.aerhq.org/education_dependentchildren_mgjames.asp for information. The deadline for registration is March 2, 2009.

Attend orientation

A newcomer’s orientation will be held 9-11:30 a.m., Dec. 18. at the Audie Murphy Soldier Service Center, building 253, room 2047. Bring your children to enjoy cookies with Santa. The comprehensive orientation is designed to introduce the services available to assist with transition for new Soldiers, Families and



Balfour Beatty
Communities

Donate cell phones, support Soldiers

Help Soldiers overseas call home. By donating any old cell phone, you can help provide calling cards for Soldiers serving overseas. The phones are sent to ReCellular, which pays Cell Phones for Soldiers for each donated phone - enough to provide an hour of talk time to Soldiers abroad.

The effort runs throughout the month of December. Drop boxes can be found at Leasing Office and our boxes can be found at Liberty Woods, Southern Oaks Community Center and New Savannah/New Callaway Community Center.

Joint Neighborhood Huddles

To make it possible for every neighborhood to have a huddle once a month, we are combining all neighborhood huddles into one, 10:30 a.m., Friday at Southern Oaks Community Center. Balfour Beatty Representatives will be there to address any issues or concerns residents may have with their neighborhoods.

Home decorating contest slated

Show your holiday spirit by decorating your home, giving you the chance to win our contest! Get out those lights, wreaths and reindeer!

Department of Defense Civilians. Free child care is available when you register children at least one day in advance of orientation. For more information, call 767-9176.

Legal Assistance closes

The Fort Stewart Legal Assistance Office will close at 11:30, Dec. 19 for an office holiday function. In addition, the Fort Stewart Legal Assistance and Claims offices will be closed Dec. 25-26, Jan. 1 and 2 for holidays. Regular business will resume Jan. 5.

Weekend Dining Facility hours posted

The weekend dining facility for for Dec. 20-21 is the Provider Dining Facility, building 726. Weekend serving hours are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for brunch, and 3:30-5:30 p.m. for supper.

The Warrior Transition Battalion Dining Facility, building 12902/02 is always open on weekends. The WTB serving hours are breakfast 8-9:30 a.m. lunch 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and dinner 5-6 p.m.

Hunter

Enjoy Christmas brunch

There will be plenty of good food from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Dec. 14 at Hunter Club, building 6015. Breakfast items, peach crepes, carved roast beef, turkey with giblet gravy, cornbread dressing, corn nuggets, cranberry sauce, candied yams, Prince Edward Island blend, plus chocolate fountain, hot apple cider and mimosas.

The cost is \$14.95 per person, children (ages 5-10) half price, and is free for children 4-years and under. Bring a church bulletin and receive \$1 off each meal. For more information, call 459-7923.

Judging will begin on Stewart, 5:30 p.m., Dec. 17 in all BBC neighborhoods. On Hunter, the judging will begin 5:30 p.m., Dec. 15. Three winners will be selected and awarded a \$50 gift check.

Walk in a Winter Wonderland

Did you ever think you could build a snowman in Georgia? Well, you can at our Winter Wonderland event 1 p.m., Saturday at Liberty Woods Leasing Office, because we are going to have real snow on the ground. With a snowman building contest, popcorn, cotton candy, an inflatable slide and more; this is sure to be a great holiday event. And since the holidays are a time of giving, bring any old gloves, mittens or scarves to put on our mitten tree to be donated to those in need.

Gift wrapping station available

Parents, do you need to do some gift wrapping without little ones peeking? Visit Balfour Beatty Communities wrapping station on Hunter, 10:30 a.m., Dec. 19 at the BBC leasing office to get the job done! On Stewart, the event is 10:30 a.m., Dec. 18 at Southern Oaks Community Center. We'll provide all the materials you'll need.

Play candy bar bingo

Come play a sweet game of Bingo, 5 p.m., Dec. 30. The prizes are sure to satisfy your sweet tooth! If chocolate is your weakness, then this is the game for you at the New Savannah/New Callaway Community Center.

Education Matters

Directorate of Human Resources

College term dates announced

Enrollment for the first term of 2009 is underway for both on-post and distance learning classes. Please contact the college directly for course schedules and enrollment information.

Central Texas College: from Jan. 7 - Feb. 28. Call 767-2070, Stewart; 315-4090, Hunter.

Columbia College: from Jan. 12 - March 7. Call 767-5336, Stewart; 352-8635, Hunter.

Embry Riddle: from Jan. 5 - March 8. Call 767-3930, Stewart; 352-5252, Hunter.

Savannah Tech: from Jan. 7 - March 20. Call 408-2430.

Webster University: from Jan. 5 - March 5. Call 767-5357, Stewart; 354-0033, Hunter.

Teaching certification seminar offered

The Liberty Center Director of Teacher Education Programs, will conduct Georgia teacher certification seminars focusing on the Armstrong Atlantic State University Master of Arts in Teaching program. The M.A.T. allows those eligible individuals to pursue a graduate degree and obtain initial teacher certification in Georgia.

The monthly sessions are held at 5 p.m. at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center, Building 100. Future seminars will be conducted Dec. 17, Jan. 27, Feb. 25, and March 18. For more information, please contact Don Stumpf, Director of Teacher Education Programs at 877-1910 or e-mail Don.Stumpf@armstrong.edu.

Transition-to-Teachers sessions slated

The Georgia Troops to Teachers Program provides federal funding to qualified servicemembers of up to \$10,000 for becoming public school teachers. Bill Kirkland conducts monthly Transition to Teaching ninety minute classes that consist of an overview of programs, registration procedures and Georgia teacher certification options. This includes the Georgia Teacher Alternative Preparation Program. GaTAPP is a two-year program that allows those with bachelor degrees to teach and certify at the same time. All military spouses are invited, but they must register with the Military OneSource Center to be provided any financial support. The briefing begins at 10 a.m. and is held at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center. Scheduled sessions are Dec. 17, Jan. 27, Feb. 25, and March 18. Call 1-800-745-0709 for more information. The official website is www.tttga.net.

Free FAFSA workshops slated

Do you want assistance in filling out your PELL Grant application? Savannah Technical College in Hinesville is offering free workshops for the military community. Two workshops will be held, 10 a.m. or 3 p.m., today, at the Airport Road Liberty Campus media center.

Entry will be denied if students are more than 10 minutes late. You do not have to be a Savannah Tech student to attend the "Free Application for Federal Student Aid" session. Please bring your 2007 income tax return, and if military or a military spouse, a copy of a 2007 Leave and Earnings Statement is also required. You may review the application form at this site: www.fafsa.ed.gov. For information, call 408-2430.

VA announces online claims applications

Veteran Affairs can process applications received through its online application Web site without the claimant's signature. The electronic application will be sufficient authentication of the claimant's application for benefits. VONAPP, www.va.gov/onlin-eapps.htm is a Web-based system that benefits both internal and external users.

Veterans, active duty, survivors and other claimants seeking compensation, pension, education, or vocational rehabilitation benefits can apply electronically without the constraints of location, postage cost, and time delays in mail delivery. For more information, go to VA's Web site at www.va.gov or call their toll-free number at 1-800-827-1000.

One week, daytime courses available

Central Texas College is now offering one semester hour daytime college classes that you can complete in just five days! Classes meet for three hours and are available during the mornings or afternoons. Materials are included; you do not have to purchase textbooks. This is a great opportunity to earn elective credits for general studies, computers and management Computer studies and military related management courses will run throughout January at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center, and Hunter Army Airfield education center. Active duty Soldiers using tuition assistance must meet with an education counselor for a course override.

For a list of upcoming courses, go to your education center or call 767-2070 at Stewart or 459-5181 at Hunter.

Tuition allowance made available

All active-duty servicemembers have \$4,500 per fiscal year available for education. This entitlement is separate from the Montgomery GI Bill benefits offered by the Veterans Administration. Details are covered at 1:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, during a one-hour briefing at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center. For information, call 767-8331, Stewart or 315-6130, Hunter.

Savannah Tech info sessions held

Savannah Technical College is offering weekly information sessions to explain their college, certificate, diploma programs and the HOPE/PELL grants. The college representatives will highlight a different program of study every other Tuesday, 2 p.m. in room 206, building 100, Fort Stewart.

The sessions are Dec. 16, and 30. While the majority of courses are held at the Liberty Campus on Airport Road, many classes are conducted at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center. Some computer and general education courses are offered online. For more information, go to www.savannahtech.edu and www.gsfc.org or call 408-2430 at Stewart. You may also contact Savannah Tech in Hinesville at 408-3024 or in Savannah at 443-5700.

E-mail counselor-support made available

Need to reach an Army education counselor? Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield education centers offer a one-stop e-mail address to help. Just contact them via e-mail at stewcounselor@conus.army.mil.

Take GED enrichment courses

General Educational Development diploma and adult education classes are offered in partnership with the Savannah Technical College Adult Education Program-Liberty County and the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center. The courses prepare you to take the GED exam or refresh your skills. The courses are free of charge. Courses are on a space-available basis and the class schedule is subject to change quarterly. The choices for this quarter are 9 a.m. to noon, Monday through Thursday; 1 - 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday; or 6 - 9 p.m. each Tuesday and Wednesday. For detailed instructions, call 368-7322 or e-mail ccoleman@savannahtech.edu.

Free, discounted courses made available

Columbia College Spouse's Opportunity Scholarship provides spouses of military personnel a tuition waiver for the initial classroom "in seat" course at both the Stewart and Hunter education center sites. It is not necessary for the active-duty servicemember to be a Columbia College student.

In addition, Columbia offers a 20 percent tuition discount for "in-seat" classes only to spouses of active duty, National Guard and Reserve military personnel. For more information on this and other spouse opportunities Columbia College provides, visit www.ccis.edu/military/spouses.asp. Then arrange to meet with an academic advisor by calling 877-3406 at Stewart or 352-8635 at Hunter.

College classes for Warriors offered

The Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith and Hunter Army Airfield education centers are supporting Warriors in Transition by offering accelerated daytime college courses. The classes are being presented by Central Texas College and Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. Additional types of courses may be added in future terms as long as interest prevails.

To enroll, Warriors must sign up through the GoArmyEd portal online. Additional enrollment steps are required for ERAU. Soldiers attached to Fort Stewart's Warrior Transition Unit will be temporarily served at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center, building 100. For more information, call 767-8331.

Soldiers stationed at Hunter can contact Fay Ward at the Education Center, building 1290 or call 315-6130. Their hours are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. You may also contact the counselors in building 100 at Stewart, 767-8331, for assistance.

Apply for commissary scholarship

Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Families has another education opportunity available through the Commissary Scholarship Program for Military Children, which is now open. Scholarship applications are available in commissaries worldwide and online through www.commissaries.com or www.militaryscholar.org.

Family Members, unmarried children (under the age

23) of active duty personnel, Reserve/Guard and retired military members, survivors of servicemembers who died while on active duty or survivors of individuals who died while receiving retired pay from the military may apply for a scholarship.

All applicants must be planning to attend, or already be attending, an accredited college or university full time in the Fall of 2009, or be enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program. Applications are due by Feb. 18.

For more information about the scholarships, go to www.commissaries.com/press_room/press_release/2008/DeCA_121_08.cfm.

ERAU office changes location

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's Assistant Director of Academic Support, Kenyetta Northcutt has a new office location, room 144 in the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center, building 100. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday - Thursday. Embry Riddle is not just aviation. Northcutt can meet with you to discuss all their programs, particularly concentrations in management, logistics and occupational safety and health.

For more information, www.erau.edu/savannah or call 767-0339. You may also contact Jennifer Furlong at Hunter, 355-0644.

Green-to-Gold briefing slated

The Green-to-Gold briefings are held at the installation education centers every month. On Stewart the briefings are 2 p.m., the first and third Thursday of each month. The Hunter briefings are 2 p.m., the second and fourth Thursday.

Apply for HOPE Grant

The Georgia HOPE Grant is money given by the state of Georgia to students with financial needs to attend vocational/trade schools. The grant covers certificate and diploma programs. Any Soldier or Family Member of a Soldier who is stationed in Georgia may be eligible. Visit online at www.gsfc.org.

Spouse scholarship slated

Central Texas College will provide free tuition for up to 30 semester hours in one year, for spouses of Purple Heart recipients. Scholarship applications are being accepted now.

To verify eligibility, qualifying spouses must present a copy of the military member's Department of Defense Form 214 or orders reflecting the award of a Purple Heart since September 2001, marriage license, Department of Defense identification card or other photo ID.

The scholarship covers in or out-of-state tuition and mandatory fees. More information is available on the CTC Web site at www.ctcd.edu/militaryspouses. The scholarship application will be available online and at all CTC locations; Fort Stewart, 876-4045 or Hunter, 315-4095.

Spouse to Teachers Program announced

The Spouse to Teachers Program was initially a pilot program that proved so successful that the Department of Defense is now expanding the program to be included in the future Military Spouse Career Advancement Account Program. The pilot program allowed funding up to \$600 for licensure or certification, but under the upcoming MSCAAP, Military spouses will have access to funds up to \$6,000 over a two-year period to put toward education and training for teacher certification.

Effective now, the Spouse to Teachers Program transitioned to the Military OneSource Center. The consultants will provide career and education guidance for active duty Military spouses. Spouses can call Military OneSource (1-800-342-9647) for information and access to this program, which is targeted to be operational in January 2009. Interested military spouses will be able to find the latest news on the Military OneSource Web site www.militaryonesource.com.

Take CLEP, DANTES exams

College Level Examination Program and DANTES Subject Standardized Tests are available on post. Call Columbia College at 877-3406 for more information and testing dates. The exams are free for military personnel. CLEP tests are \$85 and DSSTs are \$90 for non-military examinees.

CES training made available

The Civilian Education System provides the Army Civilian Corps self-development and institutional training opportunities to develop leadership attributes through distance learning and resident training. If you are unfamiliar with CES, this link will take you to Army Management Staff College site for CES, or to learn more, visit www.amscl.belvoir.army.mil/ces.



Looking for employment?

Opportunities for permanent employment are available in non-

accepted on a continuous basis. **Child and Youth Program Assistant** (entry skill, and target levels), \$10.39

appropriated funds - Morale, Welfare, and Recreation jobs at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield. The following are positions with frequent vacancies. Applications are

to \$12.73 per hour

Recreation Aid - \$5.85 - \$7 per hour
Operations Assistant - \$5.85 to \$8 per hour

Cook - \$8.70 per hour
Hotel Desk Clerk - \$7 to \$7.50 per hour

Cashier - \$8 per hour
Custodial Worker - \$7.72 per hour
Waiter/Waitress (Trainee) - \$7.17 to \$8.17 per hour

Food Service Worker - \$7.17 per hour

Bartender - \$8.70 per hour
Laborer - \$7.72 per hour

To search for these positions, go to cpol.army.mil; click on Employment; click on Search for Jobs at the bottom of the page under Search-Announcement, type in SCNAFDW% then click on "Get Announcement" or hit the enter key.



Spc. Monica Smith

Brigadier General Thomas Vandal, the 3rd ID DCGS awards Spc. John Riggins, HSC, 603rd ASB, an Army Achievement Medal, Dec. 9, at Hunter's Soldier's Inn dining facility for his participation in the dining facility Thanksgiving competition.

CAB Soldiers earn DFAC awards

Spc. Monica K. Smith
CAB Public Affairs

The Combat Aviation Brigade's Soldier's Inn dining facility received two awards, Dec. 9, at Hunter Army Airfield after an installation-wide Thanksgiving competition in which the CAB won two of six categories.

"It felt good to win," said Sgt. 1st Class Samuel Spewer, Company E, 4th Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment. "It gives us recognition throughout the 3rd Infantry Division, and it distinguishes us with an elite group as a team and as a dining facility."

The competition's categories were: Best overall dining facility, Best decorated, Best Thanksgiving ice carving, Best

Thanksgiving center-pieces, Best decorated cakes and Best fallen comrade decoration.

"The fallen comrade setup recognizes the ones who served before us, who can't come with us to celebrate the holidays," said Spewer.

The awards were presented by Brig. Gen. Thomas Vandal, the 3ID deputy commander for support.

"It was evident when we saw the fallen comrade setup that you had something awesome," said Vandal. "Great work. As I was looking at all the cakes and all the decorations - it's absolutely phenomenal. It's amazing what Soldiers can do when given the opportunity and with a little bit of initiative."



Santa visits Kelley Hill

Pvt. Erik S. Anderson

Santa Claus arrives at Kelley Hill on Fort Benning, Ga. on the back of a motorcycle driven by Sgt. 1st Class John G. Behrends, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, Dec. 4. The evening featured a Christmas tree lighting ceremony, Christmas carol sing along, and a chance for children to get their gift ideas to Santa. Colonel Peter Jones, 3rd HBCT commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. James Pearson, lit a Christmas tree.



Fort Stewart Color Guard provided by 87th CSSB included Sgt. Kyle Baker, Spc. Terry Bradford, Pfc. Mauricio Ayala, Spc. William Drake, Spc. Frances Carroll, Spc. Yunde Li, Pvt. Christopher Gump, Spc. David Harp and Sgt. Anthony Clark participated in the Long County Christmas Parade, Dec. 6 in downtown Ludowici, Ga. Their battalion commander, Lt. Col. Kimberly Daub and Sgt. 1st Class Kerrick Loyd were guests of honor, leading the Grand Marshal Lillian Simmons, who followed them in a covered, horse-drawn carriage.

Local festivals help kick off holiday season

Staff Report

The 3rd Infantry Division and Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield joined in celebrating the holidays with their community partners around Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield over the Dec. 5-7 weekend.

Beginning Friday, 3rd ID Deputy Commanding General-Maneuver, Brig. Gen. Patrick J. Donahue II, was the Grand Marshall of the 12th Annual Liberty County Chamber of Commerce Illuminated Christmas Parade in Hinesville. The Division Color Guard, the Division Band, and the 260th Quartermaster Battalion also marched in the parade.

More than 1,000 people attended the event, which in addition to 3rd ID Soldiers, featured installation and local clubs, Bradwell Institute's band and dance, and Santa - just to name a few.

Festivities continued Saturday as 3rd ID Commander, Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo, Division Command Sergeant Major Jesse L. Andrews, complete with the Division Band and Color Guard, led the Annual Richmond Hill Hometown Holiday Parade along with Soldiers of the 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment.

"This community is made up of nearly 36 percent Soldiers, contractors, former military and veterans; we support our military. We are big advocates for our volunteers," said Jan Bass, Hometown Festival Parade volunteer.

Not only did Fort Stewart Soldiers march in the parade, but there were also numerous veterans groups like the Richmond Hill Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps in the parade. The Soldiers, veterans and students were all showered with applause and cheers as they marched by.

Captain Arturo Flores, Troop A, 3/7

Cav. commander, said it was important for the Soldiers to show their appreciation to the Richmond Hill community, a town in which many Stewart and Hunter Families live.

"This community supports us when we're deployed. It supports our Family Members, so it's nice to return the favor to the community," Flores said.

Bass said it was only natural to dedicate the parade to servicemembers since last holiday season the entire Marne Division was deployed.

The 3rd Sustainment Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Clifton Johnson and Color Guard participated in the Vidalia Christmas Parade.

Lieutenant Colonel Kimberly Daub, commander 87th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, and Sgt. 1st Class Kerrick Loyd rode in the Long County Christmas Parade along with nearly a dozen Fort Stewart Soldiers of the 87th CSSB. The Long County Parade started at Long County High School, then went down McDonald St., turning left on McQueen St. and going by the Ludowici Pavilion, turning left again on Factory St. then ending on Academy St. right across from the Long County Courthouse. The Color Guard led by Sgt.

Kyle Baker followed the lead vehicle in the parade, which held Long County's long-time Sheriff Cecil Nobles. The other members of the Color Guard included Spc. Terry Bradford, Pfc. Mauricio Ayala, Spc. William Drake, Spc. Frances Carroll, Spc. Yunde Li, Pvt. Christopher Gump, Spc. David Harp and Sgt. Anthony Clark.

The parade's Grand Marshal, Lillian Simmons, rode in a covered, horse-drawn carriage that followed Daub and Loyd's convertible. Pick-up trucks carrying beauty queens from petite to high school age, marching Girl Scouts, a marching band and a stretch limousine were a major part of the parade. Of the 10 decorated floats that participated, the one that won first place was created by the Hinesville Area Board of Realtors. It included a backdrop of Emerald City with all the characters from Wizard of Oz, even a living, barking Toto.

Other important participants in the Long County Parade were Ludowici Mayor Myrtice Warren, Chief of Police Richard Robertson, Smokey the Bear and of course, Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Editor's note: Information contributed by Sgt. Tanya Polk, Editor; Sgt. Jason Stadel, 2nd BCT Public Affairs; Randy Murray, Fort Stewart Public Affairs; and Spc. Gaelen Lowers, 3rd Sustainment Bde. Public Affairs.



Command Sergeant Major Clifton Johnson, 3rd Sustainment Brigade command sergeant major, and Vidalia's Miss Congeniality ride in the Vidalia Christmas Parade.



Members of the 3rd ID STB walk and ride in the Liberty County/Hinesville Christmas Parade that started at Bradwell Institute and traveled through downtown Hinesville, Dec. 5.



Santa and Mrs. Claus ride atop a Ludowici Fire Department fire truck waving to attendees at the Long County/Ludowici Parade, Dec. 6.



Right: Members of the 3rd ID Band followed Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo, 3rd ID commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Andrews, 3rd ID command sergeant major, and preceded more than 80 Soldiers from 3/7 Cav. Regt., 2nd BCT, who marched in the Richmond Hill Hometown Festival Parade on U.S. Highway 144, Dec. 6.



Sergeant 1st Class Kerrick Loyd and Lt. Col. Kimberly Daub, 87th CSSB, wave to parents and children on the streets of downtown Ludowici, Ga., Dec. 6.



More than 1,000 Soldiers and Family Members experienced 'T'was the Night before Christmas', Dec. 4 and 8 at the installation clubs for the annual Christmas Tree lighting celebrations on Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield that featured the singing of Yolanda Hingel and a visit from Santa.

Tree lighting helps boost Christmas spirit

Frontline Staff

Home for the holidays, Soldiers and Families were afforded an opportunity by Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Morale, Welfare and Recreation to experience a magical evening Dec. 4 at Club Stewart and Dec. 8 at Hunter Club.

The brain-child of Kathy Surges, MWR marketing, and a panel of creative minds, the installation clubs were decorated to the theme of "T'was a Night Before Christmas," a poem by Clement Clarke Moore written in 1822.

The events started with a Christmas carol sing-a-long with Army Community Services's Yolanda Hingel boosting spirits so high that audience members were singling loudly, and children started dancing with MWR "elves"

(employees) dressed in their merry attire of green and red.

Amidst the songs and dance, 3rd Infantry Division Commander Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo thanked everyone for coming and wished everyone a Merry Christmas. Afterward, with assistance from local city officials and children, Cucolo helped throw the switch, lighting the Christmas tree.

Caroling commenced at both Stewart and Hunter, and as the last song was sung, "Here Comes Santa Clause," who but the jolly red and white clad figure would arrive and precede into the clubs where the dream that was 'The night before Christmas' came to life. Children entered the building and eyes widened as they were transported to a winter wonderland, complete with 'fairies,'

immense candy-canes made of balloons, snow covered (cotton) grounds, and beautifully decorated Christmas trees.

The event expanded to all of the rooms in the clubs.

Beverly Childs said she was delighted to see themed areas at both Stewart and Hunter. The event had goodies and crafts for guests, including the 'Visions of Sugar Plums'; stocking filling, 'A Right Jolly Old Elf and Cookies with Mrs. Santa' section; 'Down Through the Chimney' area; and of course, Santa's Village, where children had the opportunity to take photos with Santa.

At Stewart's event, Col. Todd Buchs, installation garrison commander, said the MWR staff did a wonderful job in putting the event on. He said it was

nice to be able to provide an opportunity for Soldiers and their Families to have fun together.

At Hunter, Eli Wilson, Tominac Fitness Center sports specialist, expressed his appreciation.

"A lot of the Soldiers who are redeploying are sharing a Christmas with their Families that they didn't get last year," he said. "I think its a great way to spend time with their Families."

Editors Note: *Contributing information provided by Pat Young, Managing Editor; Kaytrina Sharp, Hunter Public Affairs; and James Jeffcoat, Chief of Command Information.*



4th BCT returns, makes up for lost time

Spc. Amanda McBride
4th BCT Public Affairs

For those outside the military, the holiday season is usually filled with Family, friends and decorations.

For servicemembers and their Families, not every holiday season is spent together.. So, whenever they get the chance, Soldiers and their Families make up for the lost time away from each other.

Monica Perez, wife of Spc. Jaruz Perez, assigned to 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, said missing last year's holiday season with her husband was due to the brigade's deployment.

"I was with my Family, so it was a little bit easier to be around everyone and not be by myself," she said.

With the continuous separation and missing major holidays and mile stones, it brings the fear of missing too much, Perez said.

"I can't wait till he gets here, I'm just afraid (our daughter) isn't going to recognize him," Perez said. "But she will be fine after a couple a days."

Though Soldiers and Families missed

spending last year's holiday seasons together; it didn't mean everything stood still, said Perez.

Through letters, e-mails, videos and photos, she, like many other Families with deployed Soldiers were able to witness each others, holiday even though they were separated by thousands of miles.

"Letters, phone calls, and just raising (our daughter) were the easiest ways to get through it," Perez said. "Just to look at her everyday day, she is a reminder of him, knowing that he will be home soon."

Vanguard Brigades Soldiers are expecting to be home prior to the holidays.

"It is going to be great; we are going to start our own traditions," Perez said. "This will be the first Christmas together (with daughter)."

Despite the difficulty of missing the holidays with their Families, Soldiers continue to serve their country, knowing that they are not alone and that their Families are back home waiting for their return.

Families understand that even with the constant separations the Army brings, there will always be the part where we all will be together again, Perez said.

Spc. Amanda McBride

Right: Specialist Jaruz Perez, assigned to 6/8 Cav., 4th BCT, hugs his wife, Monica, and daughter, Cindy, after a welcome home ceremony at Cottrel Field, Dec. 5.



Soldier spends time with friends during holidays



Pfc. Jared S. Eastman
1st BCT Public Affairs

For 17-year-old Pfc. Edgar Leal-Ramirez, joining the Army was his first time away from home.

For 17 years, the Soldier now stationed with 1st Brigade Combat Team's Headquarters and Headquarters Company has enjoyed the holiday season with Family. This year, however, he's spending it with friends - Army friends.

"These are my first holidays away from home," said Leal. "It felt weird, but at the same time, it is a good experience for me. It's just another step for me to be able to do stuff on my own."

For Thanksgiving, Leal went to 3rd Sustainment Brigade's Dining Facility.

"I stayed here in the barracks and ate at the 3rd Sustainment Brigade chow hall. The chow hall looked really nice, and everyone was in their dress A's or blues. They had ice sculptures, waiters, and some good munchies," Leal said. "Then Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Andrews and Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo came in with their Families and sat right behind us. It was really cool."

Leal also spent time with his fellow Soldiers.

"I pretty much hung around with my battle-buddies," he said. "I work with them in S3. So we found things to do during our holidays. It was a little sad, but my battle-buddies are there to help me out; they are Family to me. We all went through the same training, and we're infantry, so we have a connection."

As much as he enjoyed his Thanksgiving, he still won't be going home for Christmas.

"My hometown is El Paso, Texas, but I have Family scattered all around the U.S. I'm kind of okay with being stuck here for Christmas, but at the same time, it makes me feel sad, because it's another holiday that I won't have time to go home and hang out with my Family. Christmas is my favorite because that's when my whole Family actually comes together, and I get to see Family Members I haven't seen for a long time. This Christmas, I was planning to go to Florida, but I can't because I have duties here."

However, Leal does have plans to visit home in the future.

"I'm going to try and save all my leave days for next October, then I'll be going home. Next year, I hope I can make it home for the holidays."

Pfc. Jared S. Eastman

Left: Private First Class Edgar Leal-Ramirez packs his duffel bag after an equipment lay-out at Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade, Dec. 4.



Spc Gaelen Lowers

Soldiers with the 260th QM test fire prior to executing a live-fire exercise, Dec. 4.

Live-fire exercise prepares 260th QM

Spc. Gaelen Lowers
3rd Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

Train as you fight is the old slogan and that is exactly what the 473rd Quartermaster Company and the 512th Quartermaster Company, both from the 260th Quartermaster Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, did Dec. 1-5 when its Soldiers executed a convoy live-fire exercise at one of Fort Stewart's many live-fire ranges.

"We are running two of our subordinate companies through the convoy live fire range, so they can get use to doing

(convoy logistic patrols) when they get ready to deploy," said Sgt. 1st Class Rashawn Simpson, 260th QM and the non-commissioned officer in charge of the range.

The real purpose of the convoy live-fire exercise, said Simpson, is get them familiar with shooting while moving on the convoy, protecting the elements within the convoy and getting the Soldiers familiar with the vehicles that will be used when deployed.

One Soldier, Spc. Albert Alvarez, mechanic for the 260th QM Co., had never been in an up-armored vehicle

and stressed the importance of such exercises.

"It gives you a good idea and gives you a good mindset to go downrange to Iraq," said Alvarez.

Other Soldiers that were not directly involved in the convoy live-fire exercise received the chance to train up in their particular job skill. The cooks were able to go out and set up a field kitchen and train as if they were deployed and the fuelers were able to experience down range situations.

Staff Sergeant Kenny Griffin, 110th QM Co., 260th QM and fueler NCOIC,

said that having the other elements train in their particular area of expertise kept everyone on their toes and familiarize with what they might face if a situation occurred when they were deployed.

When asked what all their preparations and mission readiness was for, every Soldier answered the same.

"Iraq," said Simpson as he explained their main mission down range. Planning and executing convoy missions is what the 260th QM battalion is responsible for. That is what their contribution will be and that is what they train for.

3/69 trains near, far to remain CCMRF ready

Pfc. Jared S. Eastman
1st BCT Public Affairs

Soldiers of 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment had an unusual way to train, Nov. 25 when they used a convoy and two Chinooks to set up a battalion camp at Hunter Army Airfield. The training scenario was an all too possible one for the Coastal Empire.

"The scenario was that a hurricane hit the Savannah area," said Capt. Marcus Bynum, Echo Co. 3/69 com-

mander. "That is a very realistic scenario, considering they are right here on the coast. Fifty percent of the population had been evacuated, but a category 4 hurricane came through and tore the area apart. The civilians were overwhelmed, the National Guard was activated, and the President declared the area a national disaster. They needed help, which is where we would come in."

The scenario was meant to help simulate a (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive) Consequence Management Response Force Mission, or CCMRF.

"What we're doing today is a deployment readiness exercise, and it focuses on the systems required to move from Fort Stewart to any location that we might have to move to as part of the CCMRF mission," said Major Pete Fedak, operations officer for 3/69. "The Soldiers brought their basic packing list with them, which is the basically everything the individual Soldier

needs for day-to-day living."

The battalion also brought all the necessary vehicles that would be needed during a CCMRF mission of this type. But the training didn't just incorporate the necessary systems to deploy to anywhere for a CCMRF mission, it also employed a victim relief scenario.

"We had role-players playing locals, who had been without food and water for quite a long time, who were asking for food, and it was up to us to handle that situation and meet their needs," said Capt. Melvin Lowe, Alpha Company, 3/69 commander.

The CCMRF mission scenario also allowed 3/69 to deploy without track vehicles or weapons.

"If we were called out for a CCMRF-type mission, we would not bring our track vehicles for many reasons, they tear up roads and things like that," said Lowe.

"We also have a couple reasons for not bringing weapons out here, most of all because if this was a CCMRF deployment, the primary goal would be to alleviate human suffering and to help people, and if you're carrying weapons and are in a high state of readiness, you might deter people from coming to Soldiers for help."

"Overall it was a good exercise for us to see where we stand for when we assume a higher readiness posture in the future," said Lowe.



Pfc. Jared Eastman

Soldiers from 3/69 get ready to board a Chinook back to Fort Stewart for their CCMRF scenario training, Nov. 25 at Hunter.

92nd Eng Soldiers improve range with FTX

Spc. Gaelen Lowers

3rd Sustainment Bde. Public Affairs

The Soldiers of the 554th Engineer Company and 984th Eng. Co., both from the 92nd Eng. Battalion, came together to improve the quality of the engineer qualification range with a field training exercise, Dec. 2-7.

Each company has a certain number of tasks that they have to complete and demolition is one of them, said 1st Lt. Kevin Beatty, platoon leader for the 984th Eng. Co. and the officer in charge of the project.

"It used to be a bunch of railroad ties stacked all over the place for the bunker," said Beatty. "Now they're going to have a nice structure that they can go in and watch the demolitions."

The Soldiers are working together, building a wall and five-foot berm so that other Soldiers, mostly combat arms, said Beatty, can practice their demolitions in a safer and more visible

environment.

The field training exercise had a dual purpose. Not only were the Soldiers improving on the engineer qualification range, but they were training for missions that could occur for them when they are deployed.

"It's important for my Soldiers, so they can have experience operating the equipment," said Staff Sgt. Kelvin Hall, platoon sergeant for the 984th Eng. Co. and also the non-commissioned officer in charge of the range. "Being in garrison, we don't get to operate it as much as we do in Iraq, so doing this project right here is helping my guys get better on the equipment."

The point was emphasized by Beatty. "Building a wall is a task for the vertical guys," Beatty said. "Doing site preparation is a task for the horizontal guys. This is training for us even though we are setting up training for them. Except for us, we are able to provide a better range for the demo guys."



Private Travis Golden, carpenter with 92nd Eng, helps with the construction of a rear operations center, Dec. 5



Photos by Spc. Gaelen Lowers

Specialist Felipe Reyes (left) and Pvt. Chris Weeks, both with the 554th Eng. Co., help build a retaining wall, Dec. 5.



Soldiers with the 9nd Eng. add support beams as part of retaining wall to improve in the units qualification retaining area.

Life-like dummies make CLS training realistic

Pfc. Crystal M. Bradley
2nd BCT Public Affairs

First Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers took advantage of realistic, hands-on training, Dec. 5 at the Combat Medic Training Skills building here.

The training served as the final portion of the five-day combat lifesaver training advanced first aid course which had been in session since Dec. 1.

Sergeant David Tenorio, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1/30th Inf., and non-commissioned officer in charge of the event, said that the main objective of the course was to train Soldiers to be able to perform tactical combat casualty care effectively.

"The Soldiers have been in the classroom all week, viewing PowerPoint (slides) instructing them how to dress different types of wounds, how to use IV fluids, and also how to check breathing and clear airways," he said.

The hands-on training tested the Soldiers on what they learned the first four days of the course.

"Today (day 5) the Soldiers will be participating in some life-like scenarios

where they will definitely have to apply the skills they learned," said Tenorio.

Tenorio said the scenarios would be combat speed and realistic.

"I and the other instructor, Specialist Andrew Reynolds, will be screaming and yelling at the Soldiers as they attempt to use their knowledge; we're going to make it as stressful and as close to the actual battlefield as possible," he said.

Fully dressed, wounded dummies, some even with missing or severed limbs played a role in making the scenarios seem combat-like to the Soldiers.

"The life-like actions of the practice dummies definitely tests the Soldiers' combat lifesaver skills," said Spc. Benjamin Sumser, HHC, 1/30th Inf., combat medic helper at the training skills building.

Sumser said that the Soldiers would actually have to control the dummies' vital signs and apply tourniquets or dressings to the electricity-powered dummies, unlike dummies of the past that just lay there.

"The chests on these dummies actually rise and fall as they breathe with a simple click of the mouse," Tenorio said. "An airway could become blocked by a swelling tongue."

Blood, which squirted from the dum-



Pfc. Crystal M. Bradley

Sgt. David Tenorio, HHC, 1/30th Inf., 2nd BCT, looks on as Private Joshua Leach, Company D, 1/30th, 2nd BCT, applies skills learned in the CLS course to a chest wound Dec. 5 at the Combat Medic Training Skills building.

mies human-like veins, and blinking eyes were not the only life-like qualities that made the scenarios realistic.

"Besides us getting up in their faces, and also having to control the dummies' bleeding, the Soldiers will also be forced to wear all their combat gear," Tenorio said. "We also jack the heat up to about 120 degrees to make it feel more like the temperature in Iraq."

Gun shots, bombs, yelling, strobe lights and loud music also played as the Soldiers attempted to save the lives of the dummies.

Through the heat, yelling, and the blood spurting, Soldiers applied tourniquets, cleared airways, and stabilized vital signs of the dummies.

Private Bryan Espinoza, Company D, 1/30th Inf., said that the training was very realistic and stressful.

"All week in class we prepared for today (day 5) learning about IVs and tourniquets and the basic phases of

combat lifesaver skills," said Espinoza. "When I got in there, a lot was going on and my brain shut down for a split second. Then out of no where, what I had learned just started to kick in."

Tenorio said that upon completion of the course the Soldiers would be CLS certified for a year.

"It's good that Soldiers are getting a chance to get good, realistic training like this. The main thing that's important though is that now they can protect their battle buddies," he said.

Margie Smith, site manager at the combat medic training skills building, said the training offered there is great.

"It's been proven that the new simulation dummies have actually helped prepare Soldiers for combat," she said. "We welcome all training here with open arms. Soldiers can even come just to tour the building."

An appointment for training can be scheduled at 767-1226.

Soldiers make peace out of war through scripture, scrapbooks

Sgt. David Turner
4th BCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq – A commander's job may be to guide their Soldiers into battle, but Chaplain (Capt.) Lisa Northway sees

her job as providing the spiritual guideposts for Soldiers to follow home.

During a recent meeting of her newly-formed scrapbooking group, Northway gave the group a picture to get them started: A photograph of the Forward Operating Base Kalsu helicopter landing zone with its sign reading "Welcome to Kalsu."

For Soldiers beginning their war scrapbooks, Northway invoked the words of Jeremiah 31:21: "Set up road markers for yourself; make yourself guideposts." God, she said, does not orphan us, but gives us guidance through scripture on how to find our way home.

Northway, chaplain of the 204th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, calls her project "Scripture Scrapbooking: Creating a Sacred Text of Your Deployment."

By documenting their experiences in a spiritual context, Northway hopes her Soldiers will find an expression for their shared experiences that they can also bring home to share with their friends and Families.

"Some of these people are 'repeat defenders,'" said Northway, referring to Soldiers with multiple deployments. But they still haven't figured out a way to articulate some of the things that happened. I believe there are ways to tell every age group of your Family, nieces, nephews and children how you made a contribution to the war effort. This is a great way."

Northway offers vers-

es of scripture to start the process, but Soldiers are encouraged to find creative ways to design their scrapbooks.

"People might not have pictures; they might just want to be able to write their experience, maybe put some mementos in there," she said.

Northway, who is from Modesto, Calif., came up with the program during her previous deployment to Kuwait, when she was charged with developing a group activity appealing to both genders.

She had done scrapbooking on her own as a hobby, and her work as a residence director on a college campus taught her that younger people needed activities that provided a creative outlet in a safe social setting. In a way, she said, it serves as a kind of group therapy.

"The group dynamic helps in this setting because it works much like a group therapy session would. It's similar, but I think it's a lot more fun. It's almost like therapy without calling it therapy," she said.

While Soldiers have other recreation opportunities, Northway said, scripture scrapbooking offers an alternative, which can improve their spiritual lives.

"I believe scripture has the power to go beyond anywhere I could go in someone's heart and in their spirits. We have people, I think, who are hungry, spiritually hungry for something different, something wholesome that feeds them, that builds them up and gives them a life skill. My belief is that you can go home to your Family stronger, not weaker," she said.

Northway has seen some surprises come out of her previous sessions, particularly with male Soldiers who participate.

"Often it was a verse of scripture that meant a lot to them. Pictures of their kids, things they had brought back from (rest and relaxation leave) and vacations. We had male Soldiers scrapbooking their wedding pictures. I was just wowed by that. To have your husband come home with a scrapbook – it's such a statement of love."

To get Soldiers started, Northway has boxes full of scrapbooking materials, all donated from scrapbooking enthusiasts, suppliers and organizations from the U.S. and around the world.

As with the care packages she distributes to Soldiers from anonymous donors in the U.S., she said the donated materials further show how people want to stay connected and show their support for deployed troops.

"You can't know unless you are deployed how much the people in the states support us, regardless of what they think about the war. We are so well loved and supported. You see it every day, every time a care package comes in, from strangers," she said.



Sgt. David Turner

NCO receives Soldier's Medal from Iraq's top commander

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq – General Ray Odierno, commander of Multi-National Force – Iraq, presents Staff Sgt. John Dresel with the Army's Soldier's Medal in a ceremony at FOB Iskan, Thanksgiving Day. Dresel, of Oxford, Conn., with Co. A, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, received the medal for heroic actions in saving the life of a Soldier in an incident on Sept. 14 at Joint Security Station Jurf in northern Babil Province.

DES Spotlight: *New physical security Web site*

Special to the Frontline

The Directorate of Emergency Services Physical Security Branch is pleased to announce their new Web site is in full operation. The Web site has a treasure trove of information to include updated inspection checklists, samples of standard operating procedures, applicable Army and Fort Stewart regulations and forms, samples of arms room memorandums, etc. Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Soldiers and Department of the Army Civilians can access the Web site at tmoos.stewart.army.mil/SiteDirectory/Physical%20Security/default.aspx.

In addition, appointed physical security officers should get the knowledge needed to ensure units have a successful physical security program. The Physical Security Branch will be

giving a comprehensive class for brigade/battalion S2 and unit physical security officers once each quarter during Fiscal Year 2009. This class is will cover unit key control, arms rooms, barracks and motor pool security. The scheduled class dates for FY09 are 9:30 to 4 p.m., Feb. 18; May 13 and Aug. 12 at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center

Appointed key control custodians are reminded they need to clearly understand responsibilities for key control whether it is for arms room or administrative areas. Directorate of Emergency Services, Physical Security Branch is offering a key control class once each quarter during FY 09. The classes are 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Feb. 17, May 12, and Aug. 11.

You may register for either of these classes by contacting Glenn Hadden, at 767-8042/8494.

Justice Served

Male, 24, possession of controlled substance, five days confinement, \$25 special assessment

Male, 51, driving with suspended registration and no insurance, \$200 fine, \$50 special assessment

Male, 48, driving under suspended license, \$150 fine, \$25 special assessment

Male, 29, driving with suspended

license, \$500 fine, 12 months probation, \$25 special assessment

Male, 24, criminal trespassing, \$250 fine, \$10 special assessment

Male, 48, theft, 12 months confinement, \$25 special assessment

Male, 26, driving with suspended license, \$250 fine, \$25 special assessment.

DHR Spotlights *Melvin L Dougherty*

Special to the Frontline

Melvin L. Dougherty, known as Doc, is the Chief of Transition Center and Reassignment Processing Section located in building 253, the Audie Murphy Soldier Service Center. He and his staff provide support to more than 31,000 Soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division and surrounding areas. He is a native of Kingston, Jamaica West Indies and a graduate of John. J High School in Brooklyn, N. Y.

After completing high school, Dougherty enlisted in the United States Army in February 1972. Prior to retiring, he did two tours in Germany and is a Desert Storm veteran. He retired after 22 years of service and was credited with the following awards for his service: Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (2), Army Commendation Medal (2) and an Army Achievement Medal.

Once retired, he started his second career working for the federal government (civil service) in the Retirement Services Office as a military personnel clerk in 1996. In 2001 he was promoted to the position of Chief of the Transition Center. In July 2008 he was temporarily promoted to Chief of the Reassignment Processing Section



Melvin L. Dougherty

where he currently works, supervising both sections.

As chief of two of the busiest sections in the Audie Murphy Soldier Service Center, Dougherty and his staff assist Soldiers during their process of relocating to other installations or as they transition back to civilian life.

For his post secondary education, Dougherty attended Savannah Technical College where he earned an associate's degree in Accounting and Computer Information System.

In his spare time, he enjoys playing golf, bowling, and serving as a deacon at Full Gospel Tabernacle Church of God in Christ.

Dougherty and his wife Faye have three children: Jason, Melvin and Kevin.

This Week on Marne Television

Channel 16 at Fort Stewart • Channel 7 at Hunter Army Airfield

The Marne Report runs Friday through Dec. 19. Programs are subject to change.

***Sprint customers on Hunter have to disconnect their cable box to tune in Marne TV.**

Midnight	3 Around Rock		Community Events		Wednesday)
	Driving Marne Safe	9 a.m.	Motorcycle Safety	9 p.m.	Marne Report
12:30 a.m.	Motorcycle Safety	9:30 a.m.	Community Events	9:30 p.m.	Community Events
1 a.m.	Marne Vet Pets	11:30 a.m.	3 Around Rock		The American Veteran (Monday)
1:30 a.m.	Community Events		Marne Vet Pets		Ed Matters (Tuesday, Friday)
2 a.m.	Community Events		Marne Vet Pets	10 p.m.	3 Around Rock
2:30 a.m.	MarneReintegration	Noon	Marne Report	10:30 p.m.	Driving Marne Safe
3 a.m.	Community Events	12:30 p.m.	Marne	11 p.m.	Marne Reintegration
3:30 a.m.	Driving Marne Safe		Reintegration	11:30 p.m.	Marne Report
	Community Events	1 p.m.	Community Events		
4 a.m.	Community Events	3 p.m.	Battleground		
5:30 a.m.	Driving Marne Safe		The AmericanVeteran (Monday)		This week's Marne Report
	Community Events	3:30 p.m.	Community Events		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hunter Highlights
6 a.m.	Motorcycle Safety	5:30 p.m.	Marne Report		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Home for the Holidays
6:30 a.m.	Community Events	6 p.m.	Community Events		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CFC update
	Fit for Duty	6:30 p.m.	Grill Sergeant		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Air Assault
7 a.m.	Jake's Body		(Tuesday)		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Holiday Parades
7:30 a.m.	3 Around Rock	7:30 p.m.	Marne Vet Pets		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MWR 1/2 day schedule
	Marne Vet Pets	8 p.m.	Community Events		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safety
8 a.m.	Marne Report	8:30 p.m.	Community Events		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DUI Awareness
8:30 a.m.	Driving Marne Safe		Marne Chat (Monday,		

Legal Notice

Anyone having claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **Sgt. David Hollensworth, Medical Activity Command**, Fort Stewart, contact Capt. Elizabeth Barnhart, MED-DAC, Fort Stewart, at 435-6074.

Anyone having claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **Spc. Wayne Wood, C Co. 1/3 AVN**, Hunter AAF, contact Capt. Charles King, C Co., 1/3 AVN, Hunter AAF, at 912-315-3105.

Remember
unclassified bits and pieces of
information are
valuable to trained the observers

For more information check out the Frontline online at
stewart.army.mil